



Talking Matters

Newsletter June 2014

www.talkingmatters.com.au

What's happening at Talking Matters?

It's an exciting time right now. The speech pathology team has some new members: Breeanna Hicks, Kate Wilson and Nathan Giacco. Breeanna comes to us from Victoria in July, while Kate and Nathan have already begun meeting families and visiting schools.

The occupational therapy team have been joined by Judith Merritt, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as well as Lyle McVeigh. Judith and Lyle have begun meeting clients in the office and at some schools.

Extra team members mean that we are clearing the waiting lists for speech and OT and we have been able to expand our school service to include some new schools. We hope to have some news on extra psychology services in the next few weeks as well.

We are also very excited that Michelle Stevens, formally a senior autism advisor, will be joining our team in July and working with us to further support both staff and families.

Sadly we will say goodbye to Becky, who is moving to Germany, Emily who will be traveling in Europe and Esther who is working in a position closer to home.

We are offering social skills training again in the July holidays and places for these are filling fast. We are also considering some weekly social skills sessions, after school next term.

Soon we are holding some workshops for teachers, parents and support staff on developing early literacy skills for preschool and reception students. The workshops are based on the work of Diana Rigg of PLD resources and will be presented by members of the Talking Matters team.

Work is being done on the outside play areas and we hope to have a pleasant play space for kids to use when the warmer weather arrives. Eventually we hope to be able to offer some outdoor therapy experiences too.

Just a reminder that if your child is a moving to NDIA Talking Matter is able to provide service under this program. NDAI will be taking registrations of children aged 6 to 13 years from 1st July.



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Does your child need social skills training?

We will be running social skills training groups based on the 'What's the Buzz' program for school aged children in the July holidays. It will be offered as an intensive program, run 4 days per week for 2 weeks.

The sessions will be held in school holidays starting Monday 7th of July, 2014. Groups of 4 children will be led by a speech pathologist and an assistant and last 1 1/2 hours each. Groups will be at 9am, 11am and 1.30pm. Allocation of group start times will be based on creating successful group dynamics. We are also taking expressions of interest for an afterschool group once per week in term 3.



The program includes:

- Meeting people, exiting interactions, getting appropriate attention and following instructions
- Being friendly, competition, winning and losing
- Identifying feelings, feelings warning signs, managing feelings and thinking positively
- ideas to create wellbeing, empathy, and responding to others
- Handling worry, dealing with disappointment and responding to bullying
- The connecting art of conversation, learning to 'fit in', giving and receiving compliments
- A celebration of achievement in the last session.



If you would like to find out more or to register your interest contact the office on 82557137.

Workshop: Early Literacy for Reception

Are you looking for quality teacher education to support literacy development in reception students? We have a great training session based on the work of Diana Rigg of PLD resources coming in term 3.

What you will leave with:

- Skills to teach phonemic awareness, the key early literacy skill
- Understanding of the key skills for early reading and spelling
- Strategies for teaching key skills of segmenting, blending and letter formation
- How to teach, screen, and then intervene for the students with the most need
- How to plan and carry out whole class, small group and individual instruction, quickly and effectively
- Where to find effective, easy to use resources
- A certificate of attendance so you can count your hours towards your professional development requirements



Relevant to: reception teachers, key literacy teachers, learning support teachers, support staff and parents.

Wednesday the 30th of July 2014 from 4pm to 6pm
Cost \$65 Presented by Talking Matters team members

Download a registration form for both workshops from:

<http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/services/professional-development-talking-matters-speech-pathology-elizabeth-downs-8255-7137>

Workshop: Pre-literacy Skills for Preschool

Do you want to help preschool children prepare for success with literacy? We have a second workshop focused on preschool skills coming in term 4.

What you will leave with:

- Skills to teach the key pre-literacy skills for three and four year olds
- Understanding of the key skills for preparing for literacy learning
- Strategies for teaching key skills of syllables, rhyme, sound and letter identification
- How to teach, screen, and then intervene for the children with the most need
- How to plan and carry out whole class, small group and individual instruction quickly and effectively
- Where to find effective, easy to use resources
- A certificate of attendance so you can count your hours towards your professional development requirements



Relevant to: preschool and reception teachers, key literacy teachers, learning support teachers, child care staff, support staff and parents.

Wednesday the 22nd of October 2014 from 4pm to 6pm
Cost \$65 Presented by the Talking Matters Team

Helping your children reach their potential

Looking for school based speech pathology or occupational therapy services?

We provide visiting services to a large number of private and public schools and some preschools. To find out if your school has a visiting service ask your Talking Matters therapist.

If you are from a school or centre that would like a service please contact the Talking Matters office to discuss this further on 82557137.

Talking Matters offers:

- Speech pathology, occupational therapy & psychology
- Individualised assessment and therapy
- Variety of programs to suit families budgets
- Saturday morning sessions for busy families
- Autism diagnosis and therapy
- Fun activities to support home practice
- School & home visits in some locations (by negotiation)
- Practical professional training sessions with useful resources

Looking for information or free resources ?

Our website has information about all kinds of topics related to kids with special needs including:

- Information and activities to download
- Checklists to check your child's development
- Information about services and funding options
- Links to other useful sites
- Links to our Facebook, twitter, Pinterest pages and our blog

Talking Matters

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